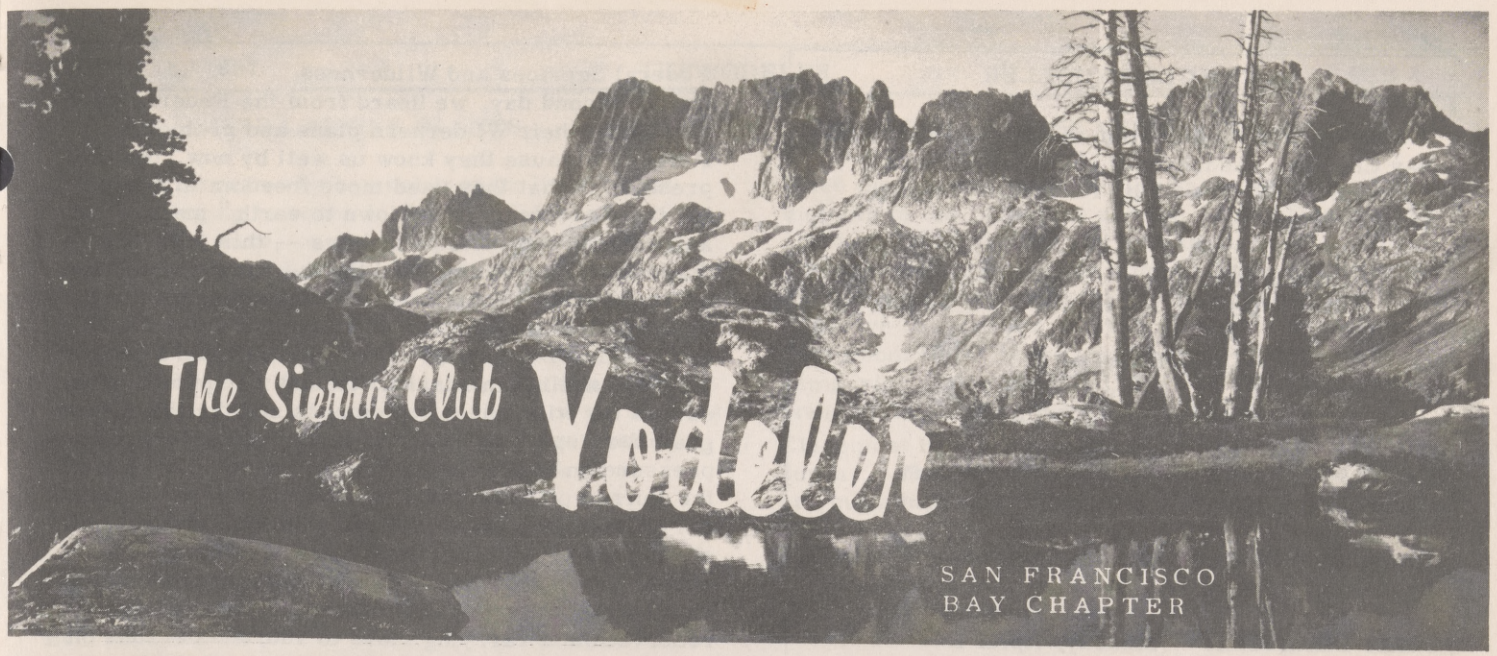

VOLUME XIX MARCH 18, 1957 NUMBER 6

WILDERNESS AND CIVILIZATION

With the last speeches only a few hours old, any report of the Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference cannot help being sketchy and limited. Personal impressions were of a large (400) and attentive audience; a great variety in the persons, places, and professional skills represented; and excellent staff work under co-chairmen George Collins and George James, and secretary Doris Leonard.

Space and People

A paper by Lowell Sumner, Biologist for the N.P.S., which dealt most thoughtfully with "Pressures of Civilization" on our open spaces, opened the first day's program. In discussing the subject, John Spencer offered the thought that really dominated the Conference: We must educate the people to understand the consequences of un-wise use for they are intelligent enough when informed, but not until then. Starker Leopold, Sierra Club director and Wild Life specialist, presented a paper on Wilderness and the Humanities which really developed this idea. Describing himself as a pessimist in search of a silver lining, Starker spoke of the emergence of respect for the natural scene as a turning point in the history of humanity. The National Park idea was born in this country which certainly had then no lack of recreation space and this revolutionary idea found the world ready for it.

The Spaces We Have

Three most interesting speakers dealt with the scenic open spaces we still have left. Harold S. Wagner, of the Metropolitan Park Board, Akron, Ohio, planted the roots of man's respect for the outdoors solidly in the City Parks -- places too valuable for anybody less than everybody -- and the first step in the education of millions to the idea that wild places may be of some value. Joe Penfold, Izaak Walton League, took a hard look at our national chance for spaces. When the nation began we had 600 acres each; seventy years later we had only 60: now it is 13 1/2; his grandsons will have only 8 apiece. Yet there is no inventory of spaces we have or need, and there is no synthetic substitute for space. The international

Con'td next column

conservation story was presented, with slides, by Lee M. Talbot, a U. C. graduate now Ecologist for the International Conservation Union, who showed us the fine Wildlife reserves of Africa, but contrasted with this the creeping paralysis of erosion where trees are forced out for cultivation, grazing takes over from the wornout farm, and finally the goats tear out the last roots from the ruined grass lands.

(Continued Page 2)

PREVUES OF SUMMER OUTINGS

Springtime means summertime means summer outings!

You can enjoy the Sierra Club outings in duplicate once in the previews and again on the trip. Come to the programs listed below and choose your trip of Summer '57.

A new idea is being initiated this year: there will be only one or two types of outings shown each evening. The Outing Committee feels that this will give you, the audience, more time to find out about the terrain, the equipment and other pertinent facts. Slides and comments will be presented by the leaders and/or others experienced in that particular type of outing. Here's your chance to find out all about it!

All programs start at 7:45 P.M.

DATE	OUTING	PLACE	LEADER
3-26-57	Base Camps	Whittier School Milvia nr. Virginia, Berkeley	Oliver Kehrlein
4-2-57	High Trips	Whittier School Milvia nr. Virginia, Berkeley	Ted Grubb
4-9-57	Sierra Burro & Knapsacking	Mills Tower Assembly (Third Floor) San Francisco	Ned Robinson & Oscar Carlson
4-23-57	Family Burro & River Trips	Mills Tower Assembly (Third Floor) San Francisco	Alfred Dole & Brick Johnson

--Tena Catena

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SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, April 1

Volume XIX, No. 6 March 18, 1957

REPORT ON CARSON HILL

"What made the Columbia Gorge?" "Mother Nature made the pyrite on the Cascade Range."

The warm, sunny break in a spell of wet weather no doubt helped to promote mineralogic interests of 28 adults and 16 children who joined the trek to Carson Hill on March 10. Leader Francis Jones, a chemical microscopist and crystallographer for the United States Department of Agriculture, gave expert guidence so well and freely that the smallest prospectors acquired substantial collections of pyrite-bearing schist, as well as occasional specimens of dolomite, crystal quartz, and mariposite, a green-stained mica.

The Carson Hill Mine is privately owned, but not now is operation. It is on Highway 49 about 4 miles south of Angels Camp. A good description of its geology and interesting history is available in the California Division of Mines guidebook, The Mother Lode Country, Bulletin 141. Permission to visit the property should be sought from Mr. Daniels, representing the owners, at the museum just north of Angels Camp. We found dumps, at which we prospected, easily accessible from the highway, with ample parking at the historical marker. In spite of recent rains, the site and trail were not unduly muddy. With reasonable supervision with respect to quarry shafts and occasional trail-side poison oak, the place was ideal for youngsters to climb, collect, and hammer. Shooting stars and a few other early spring flowers were a welcome bonus.

Grown-ups also had a good chance to hammer and collect a few crystals of the less usual form of pyrite crystal with twelve five-sided faces. The relationship of this to the common sort with square corners is a nice, elementary problem in solid geometry. Each of the twelve edges of the cube is developed to make one face of the dodecahedron.

--Wilfred Ward

Federal Services and Wilderness

On the second day, we heard from the Federal Agencies about their Wilderness plans and problems. Perhaps because they know us well by now, the impression is that they used more freedom in presenting their problems in a "down to earth" manner than as remembered from past years -- this made the discussion interesting, and the day very worthwhile.

The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Edward Woozley, described his present job of administering 178 million acres in the United States plus 290 million in Alaska. He has no specific reserves for wilderness but emphasized that his program for repairing worn out lands will reduce the pressure on true wilderness. The Area Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Don C. Foster, (conservationist, he says, of human beings) brought out sharply some real conflicts. How would we -- or should we -- persuade a Navajo that wilderness, not an oil well, is the highest use of his land, when the reservation is carrying close to 100,000 persons on land where only45,000 should be? Daniel H. Janzen is the new (only two days old) Director of the newly re-organized Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wild Life. Deeply convinced of the essential value of wilderness to his wildlife, he pointed out that it must often be artificially managed to provide food for more birds and fish.

Richard McArdle, Chief Forester of the United States Forest Service, had much to say on the management angle of wilderness problems. Fire and disease, if left to nature, may spread outside to commercial lands leading to insistent demands for roads to fight the fires within the wilderness. He also discussed the Three Sisters decision, mentioning that he had read all correspondence and had been over the ground himself. Asked why the creek was used as a boundary, he stated that though the ridge boundary looked good on paper, it didn't work out that way in the field. The Conference differed with him on this one and recommended later that the area be held without change until studied further.

The last speaker of the Federal Agencies was Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service. The parks are trying to keep part of themselves wild, but have their difficulties.

Conclusions

Everyone was for wilderness. Somewhere between the strictly practical and the theoretical ideal is our future wilderness program, always supposing we can educate the public to go along with us. The immediate requirements will be found in the recommendations passed at the end of the conference.

We must say a word about that mysterious Serendipity which appeared on the program for the dinner meeting, and which we discovered to be the "art of finding unexpected pleasures along a routine stretch." The special bonus was the story of mudflat, tide pool, and underwater wildlife and its dangers from man's enthusiastic seashore living. Many thanks to Dr. Robert Miller of the California Academy of Sciences and his co-speakers Dr. Robert Orr, Allyn Smith, and Dr. Earl Herald for their fascinating after dinner stories of the life of the ocean fringe.

--CMC

SIERRA ALPINE PLANTS

Is there a Sierran who has not trod on little plants bravely clinging to rocks in the high Sierras?

Mr. Robert Saxe, one of the founders of the California Horticulture Society, has tried to raise these charming members of the plant kingdom in his garden in San Francisco for forty years. He will share the trials and tribulations of their growth at the East Bay Dinner at Whittier School cafeteria, Berkeley, Wednesday, March 27. He has color slides of the flowers in their natural state and of those in his garden.

Phone Betty Franklin by Monday, March 25 at OLympic 5-5113 for dinner reservations.

--Elaine Carl

AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION

Everyone is welcome to attend the Audubon Society's Convention at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California, Saturday April 13 to Tuesday April 16.

There will be trips, led by specialists in each field, to Moss Landing...the Hatton Ranch in Carmel Valley...morning bird walks...an ocean-going boat trip.. a visit to Point Lobos Reserve State Park: "the greatest meeting of land and water in the world"...films, exhibits, etc.

This will all take place in beautiful surroundings with comfortable lodgings, good food and informal social activities at the Audubon Convention.

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HOSPITALITY NEEDED IN MAY

When the Council meets on the same weekend as the meeting of the Directors and the Annual Dinner, May 4 and 5, hospitality (bed and breakfast) will be needed for a number of delegates coming from other Chapters. This is a hard weekend for the delegates. They usually arrive between 9 p.m. and midnight, must be at the Claremont Hotel by 9 a.m. Sunday. They deserve pampering with a good bed, but are quite happy to bring their sleeping bags to a hospitable floor.

Claremont Hotel by 9 a.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. They deserve pampering with a good bed, but are quite happy to bring their sleeping bags to a hospitable floor.

Our Council Hospitality Chairman is now:

Mrs. Edwin A. Abeel (Mary Abeel)
575 Cragmont Avenue, Berkeley
Phone: LAndscape 6-5399

If you think you might have room for one (or more) guests, please write your name, address, phone, and other details on a postcard and send it to Mary Abeel. We want a good list, fifty or more names in the East Bay and San Francisco Area, so that everyone can feel free to say "Sorry, but try us again next time", if they are asked to take a guest.

VARIETY OF LIFE IN MORAGA REDWOOD CANYON

This lovely Canyon and its ridges, just over in Contra Costa County, was vibrant with sparkling green rolling hills and delicate berry blossoms on this early spring day when 40 of us hiked from the canyon to Knob Cone Pine Ridge.

As we strolled a leisurely four or five miles, Larry and Laurie Williams, who now live in the canyon, enhanced the trip by pointing out the great variety of trees from redwoods in the canyon to knob cone pines on the ridge. He also told of the various animals who have visited him, from skunks to reindeer. They also boast or rainbow trout in the canyon stream. Why, the other day one of the lads went fishing with the usual pole, string and grasshopper and came back with a 15 inch long rainbow trout.

On our return into the canyon we had a lovely view of this settlement surrounded by fruit blossoms.

Now this is certainly all worth conserving. There is fear that it may be swallowed up in the subdivision program set afoot in that area by the water company. The region is next to Redwood Regional Park and could become part of a continuous trail. The Sierra Club and other interested groups have been prodding the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors to bring this area under the Regional Park System. We can all help by writing to the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County.

--MS

INFO ON PINNACLES TRIP APRIL 6-7

It doesn't say so in the schedule, but when you get to the monument, ask at the checking station for location of Sierra Club camp site.

Also, add: For information or ride arrangements, call Wilfred Ward at LAndscape 6-4176, after April 3.

SAVE THESE DATES

Thursday March 28, 8 p.m.: Climbing in the Alps, a professional quality film in color and English sound, which won the 1st prize at Nice in 1956, will be shown in Wheeler Auditorium on the U.C. campus.

This film is by Gaston Rebuffat, Annapurna expedition member and a licensed Chamonix Alpine guide.

The film covers climbing on the Mediterranean cliffs and the major North faces of the Alps, all with terrific backgrounds, and also has some comedy sequences on teaching novices how to climb. Francis Farquhar reports that it is the film on climbing.

Better get there early, admission is free.

Sometime next summer: Wild Water, the sequel to the highly successful Canyon Voyage recently shown. This continues where Canyon Voyage left off, and will take them through the rapids of the Grand Canyon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUST REPLACE PRESENT TREASURER

This year it will be necessary for the Board of Directors to replace the present Treasurer who has withdrawn from nomination in the coming election.

The membership growth during the last ten years has correspondingly increased the financial growth of the Club. The budget and the annual report bear proof of this. It is therefore most important that the membership elect this year to the Board a person who is QUALIFIED THROUGH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE to handle the finances and accounts of an organization the size of ours.

It should be pointed to the new members, and the memory revived of old members who might have forgotten, that this is the first election since the change was made in the Club by-laws to provide for staggered three-year terms on the Board. This change was made in response to suggestions by the membership to "improve the method of selecting Directors and their term in office". With fewer biographical sketches to read (eight now, instead of former twenty-five), a closer study of the qualifications and more critical selection of candidates should be possible.

--Elinar Nilsson
Treasurer

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual Meeting of the Far West Ski Association has been changed from the dates originally set at Yosemite National Park to APRIL 27-28, 1957, SHERATON-PALACE HOTEL, in San Francisco.

THE BUTTES WERE BEAUTS!

For the second time this season the Sierra Buttes winter wonderland was crisscrossed with snowshoe tracks wending their way to Salmon Lake. The silence of snow-locked wilderness was broken with chatter and the constant click of cameras.

An easy six miles from our starting point at Bassett's on Highway 49, we crossed the frozen lake and arrived at Salmon Lake Lodge. Our welcome was unparalleled in the history of Raquetteeing. August Ebbert, our host, met us at the door and swept the snow from our boots, and Mrs. Ebbert welcomed us with a pitcher of fruit juice and a place by the pot-bellied stove.

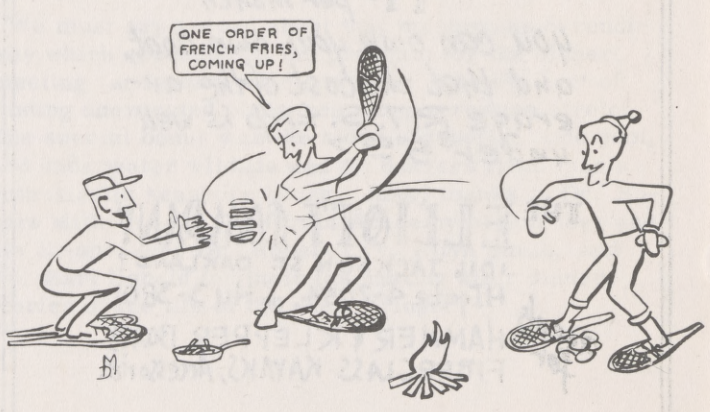
Dinner featured honey from their own bees, flour ground with their own mill, homemade blueberry pie and blueberry muffins.

The evening was spent working crossword puzzles, singing and even folk dancing - without benefit of music.

Sunday was a photographers dream with just the right amount of cloud and shadow on the peaks, and pines draped in fresh snow. The ridge between Salmon and Gold Lakes afforded a spectacular view of the snowy, jagged Buttes against the blue sky. While photographers clicked away on top the ridge, an unexpected event gave us a thrill we could have done without. On the way up a large and interestingly-shaped cornice had caught our attention, and we warned one another to stay well back from the edge. It was well we did. With a sound difficult to describe, but once heard never forgotten, the cornice fell. We looked with wonder upon empty space where there had been a fair-sized piece of ridge.

The trek back was pleasant, but uneventful - thank goodness. We hurried to Sophie Tschopp's Yuba River Inn where our weekend had begun on Friday night. Many thanks are due Sophie for opening the Inn just for us on Friday night, and for serving a sumptuous dinner on Sunday evening. Indeed, the entire community cooperated wholeheartedly to show us a good time. The Ebberts opened their doors for us alone, as they, too, are closed in the winter. The sheriff, the newspaper editor, and others in the community of Sierra City were of great help. Pauline Praasterink and Phyllis Lindley did an exceptional job of scouting and leading two trips, thus providing wonderful weekends for a total of about forty-two Raquetteers.

--BT



IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

...Erwin and I don't agree with the lady who doesn't like the new Yodeler. We think it is a great improvement. If she can't distinguish it from rubbishy printed matter with Yodeler right on the front in large type it is too bad.

--Leonora Strohmaier

...concerning a reader's desire to return to the old - type mimeographed pamphlet --DON'T.

The present Yodeler is really fine, and you all deserve a pat on the back for it.

--Evelyn Brown.

We, Jane & Gene Roberts, do NOT agree w/E. V. Zierer. We like the new format, find it much easier to read than mimeo (one word illegible) and would confuse it only with an advt. for Italian Swiss Colony Wine. (Ed. Note--How's that again!)

--J. & G. R.

...the new method of printing is a tremendous improvement over the old yellow, hard to read edition. Maps and photos in the future will make it even more attractive. I have been a member for over ten years and for the first time lately I read the entire publication-- before it was too hard to follow and in my opinion mimeograph paper is definitely inferior.

As far as the contents go, it's great, but there aren't enough articles on local walks.

--Charles L. Condrotte

I commend you for the excellent and interesting job you have been doing over the last few years in putting out the Yodeler, without compensation except that which comes from a voluntary job in which there is the satisfaction of knowing it is of interest and value to others. That sort of reward is sometimes much greater than that evidenced by monetary return.

I will take the Yodeler in whatever form just as long as the print is readable. I suggest that since it is done by volunteer help that whatever process is used be the one that is easiest on those who do the work. I prefer that later printed job although I find, too, that there is the danger of getting it mixed up with all the matter that seems to come. Would it be possible to use a distinctive color of paper, maybe a light green, or light blue, which would then offer some contrast to the bulk of stuff that comes in white?

--Carroll E. Melbin

I have tried to get used to it, but every time I open (with difficulty) the new copy, I feel a regret for the old familiar yellow sheet. It is new and modern, but nas lost for me the amateur masterpiece compiled by an amateur by dedicated staff, streaked with the typing and editorial errors (editor's note: we resent this, we were proud of how carefully we proofread the mimeograph stencils) of such a group....I too find that I tend to gather my white printed matter and dump it in the waste basket...the new Yodeler does not get read like the old. I do not like the new print either, and wish that the pages could be stapled together. Once opened, the pages fly to the four winds, never getting associated with one another again.

The staff has done a wonderful job over the years

(continued column 2)

MOUNTAINERS HEAR

We finally have some news for this column for this issue, after printing only one item in the last two issues combined.

John Schagen (his wife is an ex-Yodeleditor) will be a few weeks in Hahnemann Hospital recovering from a spinal operation. Hope it's a fast recovery, John.

There's a new member in the Joe Wampler family. Our vague correspondent didn't know whether it was a boy or a girl, but anyway....it's a baby! Congratulations are in order, of course. Wampler Trail Trips should have a fine future -- now they're growing their own customers.

And an interesting change of address for Kathleen Browning, from SF to Anchorage, Alaska. She hopes to do Katmai Nat'l Monument this summer

Other moves: Jean Morosco Olmsted, her husband, and baby Ann, from Auburn to Lansdowne, Pennslyvania. They will be there until June '59. Incidentally, Ann will be 6 months old this week -- her 1/2 birthday?

Best wishes to Carol (formerly Levinger) and Clarence Weinman who were married 9 weeks ago. Clarence used to be a club member and expects to join again. He will then be an ex-former-member and can have his name underlined in this column.

And here's a cryptic report from Tena Catena, who has just acquired "an Italian bag, an Olivetti, and an Italian stepmother."

--HF

* *

improving and making more informative the material. Particular gratitude to Cecily Christy who does such an outstanding job of reporting conservation. It takes a lot of research to keep up this way.

--Charlotte Knight

No, no, a THOUSAND TIMES NO!

Do Not go back to the yellow-burnt-orange Yodeler with its blurred print. The new look with the picture, the clear print, and the easy-on-the-eyes look is wonderful.

I cannot understand how people want to stay with an idea that was good once, but has been replaced by something better.

Stick to your guns, keep the Yodeler the way it now is. An editor's shoulders must be broad and his ears cotton-covered to those who dislike anything new. If you try to please everyone you end up like the bird in the fable ..no one is happy and you aren't either.

Also the new cartoon idea is delightful.

--Luella Sawyer
(editor, Western Outdoor Quarterly)

The above are fairly complete excerpts from every reply to Elizabeth Zierer's letter in the March 4 issue. No matter how you feel about the new vs. the old format, we can show you both emphatic agreement and violent opposition to your views.

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The Yodeler

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CAMP LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The San Francisco Council of Camp Fire Girls is offering staff positions at Camp Caniya in the Tahoe National Forest from June 20 to August 25. A variety of salaried positions are offered to women and girls (from teen-age up). For further information contact Camp Fire Girls, 325 Arguello Boulevard, San Francisco.

SOMEONE PLEASE CLAIM THIS CAMERA

On December 23, 1956, after the Rock Climbers' dinner, a camera was left at the home of Frank Tarver. He has been unable to find out who owns it. Owner please contact Frank at 1559 Sonoma Ave., Albany. LAndscape 6-8353.

FOUND

Child's brown wool jacket found at Carson Hill Mine. Parent phone Wilfred Ward, LAndscape 6-4176.

HAVASU WITH WAMPLER

April 21-26

Again this year Joe Wampler is extending a special invitation to Sierra Club members to join one of his trips to Havasu Canyon, the most beautiful tributary canyon to the Grand Canyon. This is a camping and packing-in trip. 25 pounds of dunnage per person will be transported. The trip fee, a very special one to Sierrans, of $43.00 (a later refund of $5.00 if group reaches 25 or more) includes all meals from Sunday lunch to Friday lunch. There is an extra charge for cabins and horses. Reservations, accompanied by the full trip fee payable to Joe Wampler, should be addressed to

Ethel Unselt
286 Sagamore Street
San Francisco 12,
JUniper 4-6207

not later than April 1, 1957. The trip starts on Sunday morning, April 21, at Hilltop, at Havasu Canyon, and returns to Hilltop April 26th. For further information, please contact Ethel Unselt.

WANTED

Good pair used showshoes. Alaska or McKinley model. Call HIgate 4-3845 evenings. J. A. Smith, 449 Orange Street, Oakland.

WANTED

A single touring kayak or one suitable for an adult and a small child. Sylvia Barnett, ANdover 1-3863, 3927 Lyon Avenue, Oakland.

SUMMER TRIP TO MEXICO

We have a little note from L. Maurine Peterson, 1642 Lexington Street Santa Clara, Calif. asking for a companion to make a low-cost trip to Mexico. Anyone having the summer or part of it to enjoy this way, is asked to contact her.

TO SHARE - TELEGRAPH HILL APT.

Business woman wishes to share with another business woman, an attractive five-room flat on Telegraph Hill. Fireplace. Days: SUtter 1-3580, evenings: YUkon 2-4604.

FOR SALE "LEDERHOSEN"

(Leather shorts) imported from Germany. Steerhide, grey, in all sizes for adults and children. Also original leather suspenders, Bavarian jackets, hats, kstockings. Mrs. Annemarie Fahrenbach, 463 Han Ave., Oakland 6, Calif. GLencourt 2-1381.

T'AIN'T NECESSARILY SO

The rumor that Wyatt Earp has joined the River Touring Section is not true, although he is one of the country's best-known rapid shooters.